He's free (up to the time of going to press) and he'd be a No. 1 date for any girl, but what is George really like? . . . FAB reports

the REAL George Harrison

ON interviews, George may be the first to come out with the flip quip. But haven't you noticed, on so many occasions, how shy he can be? Next time you see The Beatles on TV or at a concert, concentrate closely on George. Notice his natural reticence to grab the spotlight. Notice how he'll adjust his guitar amplifier controls (often needlessly) rather than be "down front" all the time. Notice his shy smile any time the camera gets him in a close-up.

So it's natural for George to protect his private life? His modern £20,000 L-shaped house in the heart of Surrey, for instance. It's surrounded on all sides by big high red brick walls. From the outside, it's impossible to see anything that happens within. Even the local tradesmen never see him. They deliver only to the gate.

What sort of George really does dwell within his private "castle"? Is it all hectic high life? Endless parties for personalities in show-business? Starting at dusk and going on till dawn? One long ceaseless social whirl?

Our bet here in the office at FAB is NO. We think it's the very opposite. We think that if our candid camera could see beyond those walls, all would be quiet on the Harrison front.

We see George as a jeans and sweater boy. We see him round the fire on winter nights when he's not working. We see him sipping a Coke. Watching telly. Or home-made movies. Or playing records he likes to hear with just a few really good friends. Who like him for himself. And not just because he's THE George Harrison of Beatles fame.

We can see Pattie dropping by to cook for him. Nothing exotic. Just good healthy food. Like he used to eat at home in Liverpool. Before it all happened.

In the summer, we can see George in the garden. Happily pottering about. Possibly trying out new gadgets. (He's always been the most equipment-conscious Beatle.) We can see him sunbathing. Or maybe indulging in a spot of do-it-yourself carpentry.

Or maybe he'll go for runs in his car. He loves to drive fast. Generally alone. In the open, where there'll be little traffic. Where he won't be bothered by autograph hunters. Just driving fast. With the wind and radio for company. Well, perhaps Pattie as well!

Sure, George likes to go out occasionally. To London's luxurious Ad Lib Club, for example. But why does he like this darkened, dimly-lit night spot? Because even there, he has privacy. They know what he's really like. He can dance and drink a little. Listen to his favourite discs. Without anyone making a fuss.

We at FAB feel that this is the REAL George Harrison. And that the oft-quoted, quick-quipping, hard-hitting Harrison is only half of the truth. We think that, at heart, he's a home-lover.